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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/574,277	05/19/2000	Klaus Muller	502-009444-US(PAR)	7449

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EXAMINER
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HARVEY, JAMES R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/574,277

Applicant(s)

MULLER, KLAUS

Examiner

James R. Harvey

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3-8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

- The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

- Claims 2 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Alden (5662488).

-- In reference to claim 2, Alden shows (cover sheet) an electrical plug connectors with a cylindrical plug-18 (figure 2a), a counter-plug 74 which is complementary to the plug 18, a bayonet ring 36 which is rotatable (it rotates to place boss 56 into notch 73) about a housing of the counter-plug 62 for locking the plug 18 into the counter-plug 74, characterized by the fact that the bayonet ring 36 can be pushed on a plug housing 25 until at least one locking device 44 of the bayonet ring 36 interlocks with the plug housing 25 and that the bayonet ring 36 for the unlocking of the plug connector can be rotated about the counter-plug housing 62, further characterized by the fact that the locking device has at least one spring tongue (at the lead line of numeral 44) molded on the bayonet ring 36 and running in the direction of the plug insertion with an inward-pointing peg 46 and that a circumference of the plug housing 25 has at least one sliding channel 21 which is able to receive the peg 46.

-- In reference to claim 9, Alden shows (cover sheet) an electrical plug connectors with a cylindrical plug 74 (figure 2a),

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a counter-plug 58 which is complementary to the plug 74,  
a bayonet ring 36 which is rotatable mounted (it rotates to place boss 56 into notch 73 to mount to the housing) about a housing of the counter-plug 16 for locking the plug 74 into the counter-plug 58, and

a collar 25 around the counterplug 58;

characterized by the fact that the bayonet ring 36 can be pushed on a housing 62 of the plug 74 until at least one locking device 56 of the bayonet ring 36 interlocks with the plug housing 62 and that the bayonet ring 36 for the unlocking of the plug connector 10 can be rotated about the counter-plug housing 16, further characterized by the fact that after the complete insertion of the bayonet ring 36, a collar 25 rests on spring tongues 48 (figure 2B) of the Bayonet ring 36.

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### *Response to Arguments*

-- In response to applicant's argument (page 6, line 17 ) concerning that the Bayonet ring is not mounted to one of the housing is not convincing. The term mount is defined as "to set in position for use (see attached definition from The American Heritage Dictionary). Applicant's figure 4 shows the plug housing 23, the counter plug housing 3, and the Bayonet ring 2. The Bayonet ring 3 has shoulder's 17 that "mount" into channel 15 of counterplug housing 3. The Bayonet ring also has pegs 8 that mount into terminal area 36 of the plug housing 23 (seen more clearly in figure 5 ). In the same manner, Alden shows (cover sheet) the plug housing 25, the counter plug housing 62, and the Bayonet ring 36. The Bayonet ring 36 has shoulder's 56 that "mount" into channel 73 of counterplug housing 62. The Bayonet ring also has pegs 46 that mount into terminal area 27 of the plug housing 25.

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-- In response to applicant's argument (page 8, line 3 ) concerning that Alden does not show a collar, the examiner disagrees. A collar is seen to be structure that is used to limit, guide, or secure a machine part (see attached definition from The American Heritage Dictionary). Alden shows (cover sheet) a collar that secures the Bayonet ring and meets the newly amended recitation.

Applicant's argument implies that the newly amended recitation "a collar around the counterplug" requires a collar that is separable from the counterplug housing. This narrow limitation is not required by the claim language that applicant has chosen to define the claimed invention. The newly amended claim language only requires a collar. In the same manner, a claim to a suit claiming pants, coat, shirt, tie, and collar does not require the collar to be removable. The newly amended claim language recites "a collar" that is positioned "around the counterplug". Alden shows structure 25 that Alden uniquely defines as independent structure. Alden discloses, "The housing 16 is formed with a first end 18, a second end 20, and an external median portion 25" (column 3, line 30). (i.e. the Bayonet ring 36). Even if applicant had positively recited independent elements (i.e. a collar that is separable from the housing), the claim would then be rejected for being obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make a collar separable from the housing, since it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art. *Nerwin v. Erlichman*, 168 USPQ 177, 179.

#### *Allowed Claims*

- Claims 3-8 are allowed for reasons previously indicated.

#### *Conclusion*

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- Effective May 1, 2003, the United States Patent and Trademark Office has a new Commissioner for Patents address. Correspondence in patent related matters must now be addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

For additional information regarding the new address, see Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

- Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Harvey whose telephone number is 571-272-2007. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 extension 33.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2800.

- Effective **October 1, 2003**, all patent application related correspondence transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number, **(703) 872-9306**, with a few exceptions *See Fax Automation in Technology Center 1700, 1237 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 140* (August 29, 2000). Replies to Office actions including after-final amendments that are transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number. Unofficial correspondence such as draft proposed amendments for interviews may continue to be transmitted by facsimile to the Technology Centers. *See Fax Automation in Technology Center 1700, 1237 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 140* (August 29, 2000).

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James R. Harvey, Examiner

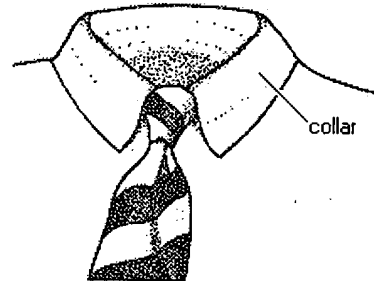
jrh  
May 7, 2004

  
TRAN NGOC  
(primary)

## col·lar

col·lar (kŏl'ər) *noun*

1. The part of a garment that encircles the neck.
2. A necklace.
3. a. A restraining or identifying band of leather, metal, or plastic put around the neck of an animal.  
b. The cushioned part of a harness that presses against the shoulders of a draft animal.
4. *Biology.* An encircling structure or bandlike marking, as around the neck of an animal, suggestive of a collar.



5. Any of various ringlike devices used to limit, guide, or secure a machine part.
6. *Slang.* An arrest, as of a criminal.

*verb, transitive*

col·lared, col·lar·ing, col·lars

1. To furnish with a collar.
2. *Slang.* a. To seize or detain. b. To arrest (a criminal, for example).

[Middle English *coler*, from Old French *colier*, from Latin *collāre*, from *collum*, neck.]

— col'lated *adjective*

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# mount<sup>1</sup>

mount (mount) verb

mount·ed, mount·ing, mounts verb, transitive

1. To climb or ascend: *mount stairs*.
2. To place oneself upon; get up on: *mount a horse; mount a platform*.
3. To climb onto (a female) for copulation. Used of male animals.
4. a. To furnish with a horse for riding. b. To set on a horse: *mount the saddle*.
5. To set in a raised position: *mount a bed on blocks*.
6. a. To fix securely to a support: *mount an engine in a car*. b. To place or fix on or in the appropriate support or setting for display or study: *mount stamps in an album; mount a specimen on a slide*.
7. To provide with scenery, costumes, and other equipment necessary for production: *mount a play*.
8. To organize and equip: *mount an army*.
9. To prepare and set in motion: *mount an attack*.
10. a. To set in position for use: *mount guns*. b. To carry as equipment: *The warship mounted ten guns*.
11. To post (a guard).

verb, intransitive

1. To go upward; rise.
2. To get up on something, as a horse or bicycle.
3. To increase in amount, extent, or intensity: *Expenses are mounting up. Costs quickly mounted*. See synonyms at rise.

noun

1. The act or manner of mounting.
2. A means of conveyance, such as a horse, on which to ride.
3. An opportunity to ride a horse in a race.
4. An object to which another is affixed or on which another is placed for accessibility, display, or use, especially: a. A glass slide for use with a microscope. b. A hinge used to fasten stamps in an album. c. A setting for a jewel. d. An undercarriage or stand on which a device rests while in service.

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[Middle English *mounten*, from Old French *monter*, from Vulgar Latin *\*montāre*, from Latin *mōns*, *mont-*, mountain.]

— mount·a·ble adjective

— mount·er noun

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## ro·tate

ro·tate (rō'tāt) *verb*

ro·tat·ed, ro·tat·ing, ro·tates *verb, intransitive*

1. To turn around on an axis or center.
2. To proceed in sequence; take turns or alternate: *Interns will rotate through the various departments.*

*verb, transitive*

1. To cause to turn on an axis or center. See synonyms at *turn*.

2. a. To plant or grow (crops) in a fixed order of succession. b. To cause to alternate or proceed in sequence: *The coach rotates her players frequently near the end of the game.*

*adjective*

Having radiating parts; wheel-shaped.

[Latin *rotāre*, *rotāt-*, from *rota*, wheel.]

— ro'tat'a·ble *adjective*

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